THE

Board of Trade Journal.

Vol. LIX.] December 26, 1907. [No. 578

The Offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade are at 73, **Basinghall Street**, London, E.C. — registered telegraphic address, "**Advantage, London**," Code—**5th Edition A.B.C.**, telephone number **12807 Central**. A statement of the objects and work of the Branch will be found on p. 639.

The attention of British traders is directed to the Sample Room, where the following are on view, with other exhibits:—

Samples.	Reference in "Board of Trade Journal." Date.	Page.
Tobacco, Cigars, Cigarettes and Snuff from the Transvaal	—	—
Haricot Beans from Russia	5th Dec., 1907	444
Wood paving block from Argentina	" " "	479
Cotton from Argentina	28th Nov., "	423
Japanese frog skins	" " "	426
Angola Root and other Rubber, St. Thomé Cocoa and Almadeina Gum	21st " "	378–9
Copper ore from Rhodesia	7th " "	274
Landolphia rubber from Natal	" " "	278
Vegetable asbestos produced in Chungking	24th Oct., "	183
Locally manufactured native silk from Crete	17th " "	120–1
Gum arabic from Egypt	3rd " "	33
Talc from Venezuela...	" " "	29
Salt from Dealesville, Orange River Colony	26th Sept., "	615
Locally dyed cotton cloth sold in Chungking	12th " "	518
Fruit of the *Myristica sebifera* and its product *Myristina* (a vegetable fat) from Guatemala	5th " "	481
Mangrove bark from Inhambane	" " "	477
Monazite sand, manganese ore, cocoa, coffee, rubber, whale-oil, rosewood, carnauba wax and coquilho nuts from the State of Bahia	22nd Aug., "	376 382 383
Cotton goods sold in Uskub	1st " "	230
Rafia wax from Madagascar	4th July, "	39
Silk produced by improved methods at Hochou	" " "	34
"Pochote" fibre, cleaned, from Mexico	" " "	34

The following Special Trade Enquiry Offices are also at 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.:—India, Dominion of Canada, Queensland, Transvaal and Orange River Colony. Statements of the objects and work of these Enquiry Offices will be found on pp. 639–40.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

BRITISH INDIA.

Bearing Plates.

The Secretary of State for India in Council is prepared to receive tenders for the supply of bearing plates. The conditions of contract may be obtained on application to the Director-General of Stores,

Openings for British Trade.

BRITISH INDIA—*continued.*

India Office, Whitehall, S.W., and tenders are to be delivered at that office by 2 p.m. on the 7th January, 1908. Copies of the conditions and specification may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Chemically dressed Wagon Covers, Metals, White Lead.

The Directors of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway are prepared to receive up to noon on the 14th January tenders for the supply of the following stores, viz.:—Class A, (1) chemically dressed wagon covers, (2) metals; Class B, white lead. Tenders must be made on forms copies of which, with specifications, can be obtained on and after the 30th December at the Company's Offices, Gloucester House, 2, 3 & 4, Bishopsgate Street Without, London, E.C., on payment as follows:—For Class A, 21*s.* each, and for Class B, 10*s.* 6*d.* each (which will not be returned). The Directors do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

Locomotive Engines and Tenders.

The East India Railway Company are prepared to receive tenders for the supply and delivery of locomotive engines and tenders, in accordance with specifications to be seen at the Company's offices, Nicholas Lane, London, E.C. Tenders are to be sent to the Secretary, marked "Tender for Engines and Tenders," not later than noon on the 22nd January. The Company reserve the right to divide the order, also to decline any tender without assigning a reason, and do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender. For each specification a fee of one guinea is charged, which cannot in any circumstances be returned.

CANADA.

Commercial Enquiries.

The following commercial enquiries have been received at the **Canadian Government Offices, 17, Victoria Street, London, S.W.**, whence further information regarding them may be obtained:—

HOME ENQUIRIES.

A North of England firm manufacturing all kinds of **cranes** and **lifting machinery** desire to hear from Canadian importers.

Enquiry has been received from a correspondent at Nottingham for the names of high-class exporters in Canada of **canned goods** and **provisions.**

A Lancashire firm importing large supplies of **mica** desire to get into touch with producers and exporters in Canada.

Openings for British Trade.

CANADA—*continued.*

A London firm manufacturing **dyed jute or burlap for wall decoration** desire to be placed in touch with Canadian importers of the same.

A Dublin firm interested in **Irish moss**, which is used in connexion with the weaving, brewing and leather trades, as well as by manufacturing chemists, are desirous of hearing from likely buyers in Canada.

Enquiry has been made for names of Canadian manufacturers of **paper** for use in the newspaper trade, **condensed milk** and other commodities, by a London firm acting on behalf of buyers in South Africa.

CANADIAN ENQUIRY.

An Ontario firm of **merchant millers** are desirous of opening up an export trade with London and Liverpool, and would like to get into touch with reliable houses prepared to buy or handle on commission.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the High Commissioner for Canada, 17, Victoria Street, S.W.

The following commercial enquiries have been received at the **Canadian Government City Trade Branch, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.**, whence further information regarding them may be obtained :—

HOME ENQUIRIES.

A Midlands company manufacturing **boot and shoe machinery and tools** of the latest type would like to get into communication with some influential Canadian firm which could represent their interests in the Dominion.

A London firm desire the addresses of Canadian producers of **fruit pulp** in a position to do export trade.

CANADIAN ENQUIRIES.

A milling firm in Ontario would like to get into touch with some reliable firm in London or Liverpool which could buy or handle their production of **flour**.

A manufacturers' agent in Montreal seeks a few additional agencies in **velveteens, velvets, dress goods, woollens** and **linings**.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the Canadian Government City Trade Branch, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

Openings for British Trade.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

Visual Vibrating Indicators.

The Representative of the Commonwealth in London (Captain R. Muirhead Collins, C.M.G.) notifies that he has received tender forms, specifications, &c., in connexion with the supply and delivery of 250 visual vibrating indicators, for which tenders will be received at the office of the Deputy Postmaster-General, Melbourne, up to 3 p.m. on the 21st January.

Copies of the specification, tender form, &c., may be obtained at the Commonwealth Offices in London, 72, Victoria Street, S.W., where also preliminary deposits on tenders may be paid. Copies of the specification and conditions may be inspected at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C. It should be noted, however, that the limited time allotted for receipt of tenders only permits of firms tendering who have arrangements with their agents that can be availed of by cable.

RUSSIA.

Railway Construction.

H.M. Embassy at St. Petersburg, in reporting on the Russian Budget for 1908, states that the estimate for extraordinary expenditure includes 6,200,000*l.* for railway construction, providing for the Tiumen-Omsk Railway, double-tracking the Siberian Railway and building the eastern portion of the Sretensk-Pokrovsky branch of the Amour Railway. Among lines already commenced on which construction is to be continued are the southern portion of the Orenburg-Tashkent Railway (see "Board of Trade Journal" of 21st November, p. 372), the Perm-Ekaterinburg Railway and the western portion of the Sretensk-Pokrovsky line.

Tramway Rolling Stock.

The "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" states that the Municipality of St. Petersburg have passed a resolution granting to the Tramways Committee a sum of 2,067,000 roubles for the purchase of 57 new cars (motor), 168 ordinary cars (attachable), and 50 new cars (attachable) for the municipal tramways.

DENMARK.

Rails, Fishbolts, Nuts, &c.

The Acting British Consul at Copenhagen (Mr. C. H. Funch) has forwarded copies of the conditions and specifications relating to a call for tenders for the supply to the Danish State Railways of 990 tons of iron rails, fishbolts, nuts, &c. Tenders should be delivered at the office of the State Railways, Gl. Kongevej 1 E, 3 Sal, Copenhagen B., before 3 p.m. on the 8th January, 1908.

The conditions and specifications, together with drawings, may be examined by British makers at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Openings for British Trade.

BELGIUM.

Bridgework.

The "Bulletin Commercial" of 14th December contains a notice to the effect that tenders are invited by the Belgian State Railways for the construction of second steel superstructures and the consolidation of the existing ones on the bridges over the Sambre near Lobbes (Station), at the estimated cost of 151,540 francs (about 6,061*l.*). A deposit of 10,000 francs (about 400*l.*) is required to qualify any tender. Further particulars may be obtained at the office of M. Dutrieux, rue d'Enghien 53, Mons, at the cost of 60 centimes. Tenders must be sent in to the offices of the State Railways, Brussels, before the 2nd January.

Railway Plant.

The same "Bulletin" also states that tenders are invited by the Belgian State Railways for the supply, in 13 lots, of railway plant. Particulars may be obtained from M. de Rudder, rue de Louvain 11, Brussels. Tenders must be sent in to the offices of the State Railways, Brussels, before 6th January.

SPAIN.

Railway Construction.

H.M. Commercial Attaché at Madrid (Mr. S. P. Cockerell) reports that a Royal Decree was published in the "Gaceta de Madrid" of 13th November, authorising the Minister of Fomento to submit to the Cortes a Bill by which the Government offers a guarantee not exceeding 5 per cent. on the capital expended in the building of certain railways, mainly on the coast. The projected railways are as follows:—(1) A broad gauge line from Pontevedra to Rivadavia *viâ* Puente Caldelas, this being a prolongation of the existing Carril-Pontevedra line; (2) A metre gauge line to complete those lines of the same gauge on the North and North-East coasts, to run from Ferrol and Carril to Irun, with a branch from Figaredo to Leon; (3) A metre gauge line to complete those of that gauge on the South and South-East coast, running from San Fernando to Cartagena, and passing by the Campo de Gibraltar, Malaga and Almeria along the coast.

The concessions granted are to be for 99 years and a guarantee not exceeding 5 per cent. is offered for a number of years, the amount of the guarantee and the period for which it is granted being arrived at by competition among intending concessionaires.

Railway Construction.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 14th December contains a copy of a Decree authorising the Government to grant a concession for the construction of a narrow gauge railway from Izarza to Cabras, and for the working of the same during the period of 99 years.

Openings for British Trade.

SPAIN—*continued.*

The same "Gaceta" contains a copy of a Decree authorising the Ministerio de Fomento to invite tenders for the construction of a normal gauge railway from Lerida to the entrance of the international tunnel (Franco-Spanish railway).

Lighthouse Construction.

The same "Gaceta" contains a copy of a further Decree authorising the Ministerio de Fomento to expend the sum of 36,536 pesetas (about 1,282*l.*) for the construction and installation of a tower and lantern for the lighthouse of Punta Insúa in the province of Corunna.

Bridge Construction.

The "Gaceta" of 15th December contains a copy of a Decree authorising the "Dirección General de Obras Publicas," Madrid, to expend a sum of 75,826 pesetas (about 2,661*l.*) on bridge construction in connexion with the works for the improvement of the railway from Val de Zafán to San Carlos de la Rápita.

The "Gacetas" may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

ITALY.

Railway Rolling Stock.

The "Bollettino delle Finanze" (Rome) of 12th December states that the Italian Ministry for Public Works has authorised the Administration of the State railways to order, in addition to rolling stock authorised in August last (see "Board of Trade Journal" of 5th September last, p. 449), certain railway plant, viz. :—320 locomotives, 270 coaches, 250 luggage coaches, and 10,951 trucks, at the estimated cost of 140 million lire.

Hydraulic Power Plant.

The "Bollettino" of 15th December announces that the firm of Tommasini Daniele di Vivaro has applied for a concession for the appropriation of water power from a waterfall at Vivaro.

ROUMANIA.

Jute Cloth, Jute Sacks, &c.

H.M. Consul at Bucharest (Mr. O. Wardrop) reports that the "Direction General de la Régie des Monopolies de l'Etat" calls for tenders for the supply of 230,000 metres of jute cloth for packing raw tobacco, and 17,000 jute sacks for packing manufactured tobacco, in two lots, to be delivered at the tobacco factories at Bucharest and Jassy; and also for 600,000 sacks for packing salt, in two lots of 300,000, to be delivered at the Saltworks of Slanic and Targu Ocna.

Openings for British Trade.

ROUMANIA.

The adjudication is fixed to take place at 10 a.m. on the 4th February (22nd January, old style). Tenders in registered envelopes must be marked "Offre pour l'adjudication des sacs et de la toile du 22 Janvier, v.s., 1908." They will hold good until the expiration of 15 days from the date appointed for the adjudication. A deposit of 3 per cent. is required to qualify any tender, and in the case of the accepted tender this deposit will be augmented to 10 per cent. The Ministry reserves to itself the right to increase or diminish by 20 per cent. the quantities to be furnished either at the conclusion of the contract or during its execution.

Copies of the general and special conditions of tender (in French) may be examined by British manufacturers at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

Machinery, Railway Tank Wagons, &c.

H.M. Consul also reports the following particulars of certain privileges granted under the Roumanian Industrial Law (see "Board of Trade Journal" of 17th January last, p. 145):—

1. For the reconstruction of V. P. Mourellis's flour mill at Constantza—importation duty-free of necessary machinery.

2. Gogu Iliescu's proposed steam flour mills at Cândesti, Buzau—importation duty-free of necessary machinery.

3. Metalurgia româna a societatii anonime, fosta Jacques Catz, of Bucharest—importation duty-free of 2,500 tons bar iron, 2,000 tons iron sheets, and necessary metal-working machinery.

4. Scarlat Parascheva's petrol factory at Ploesti—importation duty-free of 2,000 kilogs. calcined soda, 3,000 kilogs. zinc white, &c.

5. Fratii Marenco's tannery at Pitesti—importation duty-free of tanning materials, including 20 trucks tannin extract, 10 trucks valonea, &c.

6. Vasile Marian's tannery at Craiova—importation duty-free of tanning materials, including 100,000 kilogs. tannin extract.

7. A. Weidmann's agricultural machine shops at Craiova—importation duty-free of machinery.

8. Panait Arghiropol's confectionery works, 85 Str. Pepa Nan, Bucharest—importation duty-free of machinery.

9. The "Steaua Româna" Company's petroleum factory at Bucharest—importation duty-free of machinery and materials, including 85 tons caustic soda, 10 tons zinc white.

10. The "Vega" Company's petroleum refinery (? Ploesti)—importation duty-free of 150 railway tank wagons.

Openings for British Trade.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Ordnance, &c., for the Navy.

According to the New York "Tribune," naval necessities in the United States are such that the domestic manufacturers are unable to supply ordnance, projectiles, powder and torpedoes within a reasonable time. Rear-Admiral N. E. Mason, Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance, in his annual report to the Secretary of the Navy, strongly urges legislation that will authorise the Department, when "it is to the manifest interest of the United States, to make purchases in limited quantities abroad, which material shall be admitted free of duty."

The torpedo situation, he says, is such that 100 of these weapons should immediately be bought abroad, while American manufacturers are completing their present contracts and the Government factory is being put in running order. There is also urgent necessity for going abroad to obtain armour-piercing projectiles and range-finders, which American manufacturers are unable to produce.

Rear-Admiral Mason finds it necessary to replace all the present 8-inch and 12-inch guns by others of a later and stronger design, to admit of the use of smokeless instead of brown powder. An appropriation is asked for withdrawing these old guns and strengthening them with hoops at the muzzle, which is a weak point in them.

Only two firms are attempting to furnish the Navy with projectiles of large calibre, and the deliveries are far behind, and the position far from satisfactory. For that reason authority is asked to buy such projectiles abroad.

MEXICO.

Hydraulic Power Plant.

The "Diarios Oficiales" of 29th November and 2nd December contain the following notices of applications made to the Government by various persons for appropriating water from certain rivers for motive power:—

"Diario."	Applicant.	River.	State.
29th Nov.	Sr. Manuel Calero	Quetzalapa	Hidalgo.
2nd Dec.	Sres. Manuel Gómez Pezuela, Melitón Hurtado, Domingo León and Antonio Cornet...	Amacusac	Morelos.

EXHIBITION.

BRITISH INDIA.

Automobile Exhibition at Bombay.

The Board of Trade are informed that an Automobile Show and Motor Gymkhana is to be held at Bombay by the Motor Union of Western India from the 24th to 29th February, 1908. Particulars may be seen at the Trade Information Bureau of the Automobile Co-operative Association, Limited, 1, Albemarle Street, London, W. A copy of the prospectus may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

FAIR WAGES COMMITTEE.

The Committee appointed by the Treasury to consider the working of the Fair Wages Resolution of the House of Commons of 1891, as embodied in Government contracts (see "Board of Trade Journal" of 22nd August last, p. 353), have held five meetings under the chairmanship of Sir G. H. Murray, K.C.B., for the purposes of examining fifteen witnesses representing trade unions. Evidence has been heard on behalf of the following organisations:—The Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress; the London Society of Compositors; the Labour Protection League; the National Amalgamated Tin and Iron Plate, Sheet and Metal Workers; the United French Polishers' London Society; the Scientific Instrument Makers' Trade Society; the London Clothiers' Cutters Trade Union; the Vellum (Account Book) Binders' Trade Society; the General Union of Weavers and Textile Workers; the Anvil and Vice Trades Association; the National Hosiery Federation; and the National Amalgamated Furnishing Trades Association.

The Committee will resume their sittings for the purpose of taking further evidence from trade unions on 9th January.

All correspondence on the subject of the Committee should be addressed to the Secretary, Mr. J. J. Wills, Board of Trade, 7, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.

PORT SOUDAN.

The following notes on the development of Port Soudan, and the existing conditions there are taken from information furnished by the British Vice-Consul (Mr. B. W. Echlin):—

The competition which resulted among steamship lines to bring goods to Port Soudan after the opening of the Nile—Red-Sea railway from Atbara in January last year gave rise for some months to what might almost be called a boom; this, in due course, was followed by a reaction; two out of four of the British lines which began ceased to call altogether, and another now seldom puts in an appearance.

Port Soudan.

It must be borne in mind that three-quarters of the goods brought into Port Soudan were destined for up-country: the remaining quarter, with the exception of a small fraction of general merchandise for local requirements, consisted chiefly of constructional work, machinery, bridge and crane sections, cement, bricks, girders, &c., consigned to the Government for the development of the town and harbour.

From the very first not only the merchants at Port Soudan and up-country, but also shipowners and shippers seemed to have overlooked the fact that the Port had not been opened, but only the railway; the former, not having been constructed, could hardly be considered to exist.

As time went on the conditions improved somewhat. The stores were finished and goods were received there, though this brought forth complaints because vessels had to discharge at the temporary quays, and all cargo was sent by lighter to the new sheds, nearly half-a-mile distant, which was, of course, an additional expense. The alternative being to leave the goods exposed to sun and rain, however, convinced those concerned that it was worth while to incur the extra charges and have their property protected. The railway line was carried on to the new stores, so that as much labour and handling of goods as possible was avoided.

This is the actual state of affairs at present, and until the quay wall is completed, the ground behind filled in to proper level, and the electric cranes (which are erected and ready) run down to the five berths expected to be completed next March, no further improvement in dealing with cargo, or quicker despatch for steamers can be expected. When this takes place, the port may with perfect justice be considered open, and it will be well able to cope with the trade of the country, both import and export. Shipowners can count on their vessels being despatched as quickly as in any Eastern port, but until these indispensable features of a harbour are in working order it is hardly fair to make comparisons.

For those more directly interested in shipping, Mr. Echlin gives the following details obtained from the Controller of the Port:—All the navigational lights are completed and in working order. They will not be illuminated permanently until the quays are finished and the harbour opened, but on application to the Controller will always be lighted for any vessel arriving or leaving at night time. Qualified pilots meet all vessels outside the harbour, pilotage dues being compulsory. Two beacons, 15 feet high, consisting of an iron standard surmounted by a disc chequered black and white, have been erected on the reef immediately outside the harbour on the port hand of the Fairway entering. On the starboard hand an iron standard surmounted by a triangle painted chocolate has been placed. Beacons are also on Wingate reef bearing 4° N. 70° E. from Port Soudan.

GERMAN TRADE IN PERSIA.

The following statement respecting the proposed development of German trade in Persia is based on a series of articles contributed to the "Frankfurter Zeitung" by Dr. Grothe, a German commercial expert who recently visited Persia:—

After discussing the geographical conditions and lines of communication of South-west Persia, the writer declares that, in view of the future influence in those regions which Germany will acquire by means of the Bagdad railway, and also in view of the growth of German shipping in the Persian Gulf, the district in question is one of great importance to German commercial interests. Hitherto, he says, South-west Persia has been neglected by Germans. There are but few German trading establishments in the district, and the writer urges that a business should be established at Kermanshah and Ispahan. Such an establishment would find an opening for the importation of European goods into Kermanshah, which has a central situation, and is therefore a good place for distribution. But it is not only in the import trade that such a house should concern itself. The export of carpets, wool, opium, and cotton from Ispahan would be a profitable undertaking. The province of Fars is rich in corn, tobacco, rice, and wine. The German chemical industry would find a good opening there by buying up land and cultivating the poppy and raising opium. It would also be an advantage were a German agent to be sent to Persia to encourage the import into that country of indigo and other dyes made in Germany. Such an agent should not be a merchant, but should have a thorough knowledge of the Persian carpet trade. He should make Ispahan his head-quarters, and establish sub-agencies at Hamadan, Sultanabad, Shiraz, and Kermanshah. A further field for German enterprise would be the establishment of a transport system for the carriage of goods along the Khanekin-Kermanshah-Hamadan, Sultanabad-Tehran, and Bushire-Shiraz-Ispahan roads. Such a system would be most beneficial, since Persian trade suffers much from the irregularity of the caravan service. If the German Orient Bank opens branches in the southern towns, the activity of German industries will receive a valuable impulse.

COTTON CULTIVATION IN THE GERMAN COLONIES.

H.M. Embassy at Berlin have forwarded a translation of extracts from the 9th Annual Report of the "Kolonialwirtschaftliche Komitee" on cotton cultivation in the German Colonies which gives the results of the work in the various colonies in 1906-7:—

In **Togo** the harvest of 1905-6 produced 857 bales of 250 kg. each: that of 1906-7 is estimated at 1,250 bales of the same weight. The Committee guaranteed a price of 30 pfennig (3¾*d.*) per pound of cleaned cotton. Good progress has been made in ploughing experiments. In **Cameroon** the Committee have prepared a programme for encouraging native cultivation of cotton by providing seeds, ploughs, machines, &c., but little can be done till the railway from Hikory to Manenguba is built. In **German East Africa** there is plenty of crown land suitable for cotton growing, which is therefore carried on not only in small allotments and by natives, but also in European style. Artificial irrigation is urgently required but the land is so cheap that expenses for heavy irrigation could well be borne. The harvest of 1906 amounted to 732 bales of 500 pounds each: that of 1907 only commenced in September and cannot yet be estimated. The natives get from 30 to 40 pfennigs (3¾*d*-5*d.*) per pound of raw cotton. Several companies have leased large tracts of land from the Government and have commenced planting.

The report also gives a table showing the sums subscribed by members of the cotton industry to assist the Committee in its labours. The members of the Association of Cotton Manufacturers have been advised by the Committee of the Association to subscribe 10 per cent. of their accident insurance premiums for this object during three years, and a sum of 12,500*l.* (4,160*l.* a year) has thus been raised. This by no means covers the requirements of the Committee, but it is stated in the Press that other industrial associations have realized the universal importance of the work and have also subscribed towards it.

In this connexion H.M. Embassy reports that the German Home Office Estimates last year included for the first time a sum (2,500*l.*) to be devoted to the promotion of cotton cultivation, and it is said that a similar sum will appear in this year's estimates, and will be devoted to the financing of an exhibition of machines used in the cultivation of cotton, to be held in April next. Cotton gins and cotton presses are to be exhibited with a view to German machinery makers seeing them and learning to build them for themselves. There was an idea of exhibiting cotton also, but this was given up on the ground that the excellence of the cotton produced in the German Colonies is already universally recognized, and it is now merely a question of doing everything possible to increase the production.

TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS IN POLAND.

A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul-General at Warsaw (Mr. A. P. Murray) reporting on the condition of trade and industry in Poland in October last,* from which the following particulars are extracted:—

"The **metallurgical industry** is still in a very bad way, and the prospects for the future are very gloomy.

"Apart from the trouble with the workers common to all industries in Poland, the demand for iron has decreased and the cost of production increased on account of the higher price of fuel. To this must be added the great difficulty and frequent impossibility of getting coke regularly and in sufficient quantities from Silesia, whence it all has to be imported.

"The demand for iron for construction works, machine works and various metal factories, for want of new orders, is not more than 45 per cent. of the usual amount. It is hoped that next year the Vistula railway will place considerable orders for rails and bridges, but nothing certain is yet known. A Warsaw firm secured the orders for the iron work required for three new sugar factories built this year in the provinces, and factories which make iron for bedsteads have been able to keep going on orders from Central Russia.

"Iron dealers have ceased to stock iron and only order as orders are placed with them. Such ironworks as are not shut down are working only three or four days a week.

"The production of the different ironworks in Poland during the first six months of the year was not much less than during the first six months of last year, but one-third of their production remained in stock.

"There has been a considerable export lately to Germany of waste from the different works containing a certain percentage of ore which the Polish works did not think it worth while to extract, but which now is being exported to Germany to the works there.

"A heavy burden on all industry in Poland, already nearly crushed by the increased cost of labour, is the high price of coal and the practical certainty that it will in future be even still higher. The reason for this is that the Warsaw-Vienna railway has hitherto been permitted to charge a higher rate for the carriage of coal than the other railways in the Empire. These other railways having now obtained permission to charge the same rate as the Warsaw-Vienna railway, this latter has in its turn applied for permission to still further advance its rates, and it is stated on good authority that the Ministry of Finance have promised to give their consent. Hitherto the Warsaw-Vienna railway was the only one in the Empire which was not run at a loss, but it has not paid a dividend for the last two years and shows no prospects of being

* For Mr. Murray's previous report see "Board of Trade Journal" of 1st August, 1907, pp. 213-5.

able to do so this year. Practically all the remainder of the railways in the country belonging to the Crown, the Ministry can only welcome an increase of tariff which would somewhat diminish the loss on their exploitation, so there is no hope that the tariff for coal may be reduced again.

"For the above reason the mines prefer to send coal from Dombrowa by the Vistula rather than the Vienna railway, another reason being that the Vistula railway carries the coal in closed trucks whereas the Vienna railway carries it on open trucks from which theft is systematic, trucks not infrequently arriving at Warsaw minus 10 per cent. of their load.

"The price of coal for domestic purposes in Poland is this year higher than ever and will be the cause of great suffering amongst the poorer classes of the population during the winter. The reason of this is not the want of coal but simply the action of speculators who control the supply of coal to the principal towns. Various attempts have been made by the authorities to ensure a supply of coal at a moderate rate for the poorer portion of the population, but they have not been able to interfere to any great extent with the action of the coal merchants.

"The position of the **textile industry** in Poland is going from bad to worse. Not only is the disorganization of labour as great as ever, but buyers who used to get their supplies in Poland have now learnt to rely on other manufacturing centres: moreover the increased cost of production admits of the importation of comparatively low counts of yarns and of manufactured goods which, in spite of the high duty, can be sold here at a price considerably lower than that at which they can now be manufactured in the country.

"In spite of the usual autumn demand for woollen goods, factories are working only three or four days in the week: moreover it must be remembered that their output, owing to the shorter working day and to the idleness of the workers, is not more than two-thirds of what it was previously.

"To give an idea of the changed conditions of the woollen industry in Poland since 1904, the price of woollen yarn has gone up 60 per cent. and the demand for woollen goods has decreased by 50 per cent. The pay of a skilled hand has gone up from 9 roubles a week for an 11½ hours' day to 15 roubles a week for a 10 hours' day. The pay of a boy has gone up from 2·50 roubles to 5 roubles a week, and the workers are now claiming a further advance of 75 per cent. for skilled workers and 100 per cent. for boys. Besides this, no discipline can be maintained in the works. . . .

"There is now consequently a large import from Germany of woollen goods which previously were unable to compete with local prices. A great deal of these are shoddy goods, but they

command a good price as they are of foreign origin, and everything foreign is supposed to be of superior quality.

"Trade with the Empire is falling off more and more, and the only markets remaining faithful to Polish manufactures are the neighbouring Lithuanian Governments, where industry is little developed.

"The men openly declare that their object is to ruin their present employers, when, they say, they will get the factories and all become rich. It is no use arguing with them or trying to point out the folly of such an idea. The belief is general amongst them and is firmly held. Under these circumstances, as the prosperity of industry in Poland depends entirely on a plentiful supply of good and cheap labour, it is difficult to foresee any improvement in the near future. . . . (see below).

"Little has been done in the way of **public works** in the provincial towns lately. At Sosnowice, however, the much needed paving of the streets has at last been carried out and the lighting very much improved. Lodz is still waiting for its water supply and proper drainage, but, owing to the impoverishment of the town through the labour troubles and consequent depression of industry, there is no prospect of these being carried out yet awhile.

"The Germans are negotiating with the Russian Government for the establishment of a Consulate at Lodz. They certainly need one, for the number of German residents and the importance of German industries are very great.

"In consequence of the general industrial depression and disturbed state of the country there is little or nothing to be heard of new works or of the extension of old ones. A bent-wood furniture factory at Kielce, which will commence work very shortly, and three new sugar refineries are almost the only exceptions."

H.M. Consul-General at Warsaw has also forwarded a detailed report on the **harvest** of 1907 in his consular district. It may be seen by persons interested, on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

UNITED KINGDOM—UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Agreement respecting Commercial Travellers' Samples, and the United States Import Duty on British Works of Art.

The following Agreement between the United Kingdom and the United States of America respecting commercial travellers' samples entering the United Kingdom, and the import duty on British works of art entering the United States, was signed at London on 19th November last:—

"The Government of His Britannic Majesty "and the Government of the United States of "America, being desirous of facilitating and "extending the commercial relations existing "between their respective countries, but without "prejudice to the views held by each of them as to the interpreta-"tion of the 'most-favoured-nation' Article of the Convention of "Commerce between the two countries signed at London on the "3rd July, 1815, mutually agree as follows:—

"1. In order to facilitate the clearance through the Customs "Department of the United Kingdom of samples of dutiable goods "brought into the territory of the United Kingdom by commercial "travellers of the United States of America, such samples being "for use as models or patterns for the purpose of obtaining orders, "and not for sale, His Majesty's Government agrees that the "marks, stamps, or seals placed upon such samples by the Customs "authorities of the United States of America at the time of "exportation, and the officially attested list of such samples, "containing a full description thereof issued by the proper "authority, shall be accepted by the Customs officials of the "United Kingdom as establishing their character as samples, and "exempting them from inspection on importation, except so far as "may be necessary to establish that the samples produced are those "enumerated on the list. The Customs authorities of the United "Kingdom may, however, affix a supplementary mark to such "samples in special cases where they may think this precaution "necessary.

"2. The Government of the United States of America agrees to "extend to the United Kingdom the special reduction of duty on "paintings in oil or water colours, pastels, pen and ink drawings, "and statuary, being the product of the industry of the United "Kingdom, authorized under section 3 of the Tariff Act of the "United States, approved the 24th July, 1897.*

"3. This Agreement shall continue in force until six months "from the date when either party shall notify the other of its "intention to terminate it."

* The reduced duty authorized under section 3 of the United States Tariff Act is 15 per cent. *ad valorem*. The ordinary rate is 20 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

UNITED KINGDOM—BULGARIA.

Ratification of the Anglo-Bulgarian Commercial Convention.

The Board of Trade are informed by the Foreign Office that the ratifications of the Commercial Convention, Final Protocol, and Declaration between the United Kingdom and Bulgaria of 9th December, 1905, were exchanged at Sofia on the 26th November.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

Decision respecting "Vapour Lamps."

Information has been received from the Representative of the Commonwealth in London that "vapour lamps" were previously incorrectly classed for duty in the cablegram from the Commonwealth Government under item 180* instead of under item 179 (*b*)—viz., at 15 per cent. under the General Tariff, and 10 per cent. *ad valorem* under the United Kingdom Tariff.

Free Importation of Minor Articles.

The following "minor articles" have, under Departmental Bye-laws, been added to the free list:—

Coloured rubber in imitation of seaweed or flower stems for artificial flowers.

Plough, trace, back, and tug chains for harness.

Discs for cultivators, ploughs, harrows, drills, scrub and cane stalk cutters.

Fancy corners, catches and ornaments for cardboard boxes.

Machine tools: Double equilibrium saw frame, veneering machines.

Tools of trade: Dies used in the manufacture of artificial flowers.

Advertising Matter: Amended Regulations.

With reference to the notice which was published on p. 559 of last week's issue of the "Board of Trade Journal" respecting the regulations regarding the method of the payment of duty on certain advertising matter sent to Australia, the Board of Trade have now received, from the Representative of the Commonwealth in London, an amended copy of the regulations in which the references to the payment of duty on "insets" introduced in magazines, &c., and on single copies addressed to individuals in Australia, have been deleted.

MONTSERRAT.

Revised Export Duties.

With reference to the notice published in the "Board of Trade Journal" for 29th November, 1906, giving the export duties leviable under Ordinance No. 4 of 1906 in the Presidency of Montserrat, the Board of Trade have now received a copy of a further Ordinance

* See p. 464 of the "Board of Trade Journal," for 5th December, 1907.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

MONTSERRAT—*continued.*

(No. 3 of 1907), which came into force on 15th May last, repealing the Ordinance No. 4 of 1906, and at the same time providing, for the most part, for the re-imposition of the export duties in force prior to the operation of the Ordinance of 1906 on various articles, the growth, produce, and manufacture of the Presidency.

The following statement shows the rates of duty leviable under the new Ordinance of 1907; the rates previously in force being given for purposes of comparison :—

Articles.		Rate of Export Duty.	
		Old Tariff (No. 4 of 1906).	New Tariff (Ord. 3 of 1907).
		s. d.	s. d.
Animals—*			
Asses	Per head	3 0	2 0
Cattle	"	8 0	6 0
Calves, under 6 months, with their mothers	"	1 0	Free
Goats	"	0 6	0 4
Horses	"	7 0	5 0
Mules	"	9 6	7 6
Pigs	"	0 8	0 6
Sheep	"	0 8	0 6
Bay leaves	Per 100 lbs.	1 2	1 0
Cants, felloes, naves, and spokes ...	Per doz.	0 6	0 3
Cocoa and coffee	Per 100 lbs.	2 3	2 1
Cotton: Sea Island, or other long staple varieties	"	4 4	4 2
" short staple varities... ...	"	2 3	2 1
Corn	Per bushel	0 2½	0 2
Essential oils—			
Bay	Per gall.	2 0¼	2 0
Other kinds, if expressed or equelled	"	1 6¼	1 6
All other kinds, if otherwise extracted	"	0 6¼	0 6
Firewood	Per cord	0 6	Free
Fruits and vegetables, fresh—			
Bananas and plantains ...	Per 100 bunches	4 2	2 1
Limes and oranges	Per barrel	0 4	0 2
" "	Per box not exceeding 2 cub. ft. per 100 boxes	6 3	2 1
Sweet potatoes	Per barrel	0 4	0 2
All other kinds	Per 5 cub. ft.	0 4	0 2
Hides and skins—			
Cattle hides	Each	0 3¼	0 3
All other skins	Per doz.	0 4	0 3
Lime juice—			
Concentrated	Per 100 gals.	9 0	8 4
Raw	"	1 6	0 10

* Sucking pigs and also kids or lambs with their mothers were free under the old tariff. Under the new tariff all sucking animals (not exceeding six months old), with their mothers, are free of duty.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

MONTSERRAT—*continued.*

Articles.	Rate of Export Duty. Old Tariff (No. 4 of 1906).	Rate of Export Duty. New Tariff (Ord. 3 of 1907).
	s. d.	*s. d.*
Limes, pickled ... ... Per barrel	0 8	0 6
Molasses... ... ...Per 100 gals.	2 9	2 1
Papaine	2*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* per 100 lbs.	6*d.* per lb.
Peas and beans...	0 2	0 1
Poultry ... ... Per doz.	0 6	0 3
Starches (viz., arrowroot, sago, tapioca, cassava, and all similar starches and preparations of the same) ... Per 100 lbs.	1 2	1 0½
Sugar—		
Muscovado ... Per hogshead (over 32 in. truss)	3 10	2 6
" ... Per tierce (over 28 in., and less than 32 in.)	2 8	2 0
" ... ... Cask (less than 28 in.)	1 4	1 0
" ... ...Barrel or bag	0 7	0 5
Syrup ... ...Per 100 galls.	4 10	4 2
Tamarinds ... ... Per barrel	0 4	0 2
Trass ... ... "	0 2	Free

Citrate of Lime Ordinance, 1907.

A further Ordinance (No. 5 of 1907) has also been received, which came into force on 15th May, 1907, and which provides for the free importation of chalk, whiting or lime, when for use in the manufacture of citrate of lime, into the Presidency of Montserrat.

Provision is also made in the Ordinance for the imposition of a duty of 1*s.* per cwt. upon the exportation of citrate of lime manufactured in the Presidency.

EGYPT.

Revised Valuation Tariff for Certain Metals.

The Egyptian "Journal Officiel" for the 2nd December contains the following revised Valuation Tariff for use in assessing duty on certain metals and metal manufactures, which came into force on the 1st December, and is to remain in operation until the 31st March, 1908, or until denunciation:—

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

EGYPT—*continued.*

Articles.	Valuation per kilogramme.*	
	Former Tariff.	Revised Tariff.
	Millièmes. †	Millièmes.†
Copper and brass sheets, round and bottoms ...	93	74
„ sheets, plain	90	71
„ „ in rolls, bars, round and flat ...	90	71
„ ingots	87	68
„ wire	*ad valorem.*	*ad valorem.*
Brass wire	„	„
„ sheets, plain, 24 by 48, 8 lbs. to 5 lbs. ...	„	„
Tin ingots and bars	163	132
Lead sheets	21	20
„ shot	22	21
„ piping	21	20
„ pig	20	19
Zinc sheets and ingots	27	25½
Phosphor bronze	125	125
Antimony	40	40
Quicksilver	270	270

Valuation Tariff for Rangoon and Saïgon Rice.

The same issue of the "Journal Officiel" contains a notice to the effect that from the 1st December, 1907, to the 31st January, 1908, or until further notice, Rangoon rice will be valued for Tariff purposes at 1,010 millièmes* (1*l.* 0*s.* 8½*d.*), and Saïgon rice at 925 millièmes* (18*s.* 11½*d.*) per sack of 2 cwts. net in each case.

RUSSIA.

Period for Presenting Petitions against Customs Fines.

With reference to the notice which appeared at pp. 321-2 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 14th November, on the subject of the fines imposed by the Russian Customs Authorities on account of clerical errors in bills of lading or other ship's papers, the Board of Trade desire to draw attention to the fact that a period of *two months* from the date of notification of the fine by the Customs is now allowed within which to present a petition to the Ministry of Finance for a remission or reduction of the penalty. The period of three weeks fixed by the Russian Customs Regulations was extended to two months by the Russo-German Commercial Convention of 1904; and British exporters benefit by this concession in virtue of the most-favoured-nation clause of the Anglo-Russian Treaty of 1859.

* Duty is leviable on these valuations at the rate of 8 per cent. The English ton is taken as equivalent to 1,016 kilogs.

† 1,000 millièmes = £E 1 = 1*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

RUSSIA—ITALY.

New Treaty of Commerce and Navigation.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a copy of a Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between Russia and Italy, which was signed at St. Petersburg on the 15th/28th June last. This Treaty provides for reciprocal most-favoured-nation treatment as regards import and export duties and generally as regards the Customs régime of merchandise imported into one country from the other, with the following exceptions :—

1. The favours accorded at present or which may in future be accorded to other bordering States in order to facilitate frontier traffic.

2. The favours relative to importation or exportation which are accorded at present or which may hereafter be accorded to the inhabitants of the Government of Archangel, as also with regard to the northern and eastern coasts of Asiatic Russia (Siberia); but imports from Italy into these territories are to benefit by all Customs facilities accorded to imports from European States or from North America.

3. The special stipulations contained in the Treaty between Russia and Norway and Sweden of 26th April/5th May, 1838; and

4. The special stipulations relative to the trade with the Asiatic States and countries bordering on Russia.

However, it is agreed that all favours other or greater than those at present in operation, which may in future be accorded by Russia to one of the bordering Asiatic countries in respect of *silk* (Nos. 180(2)-(4), and 185(1) of the Russian Customs Tariff), and in respect of *oranges, lemons, and bitter oranges* (No. 6(2) of the Russian Customs Tariff) shall be extended to similar Italian products, except only as regards direct importations for internal consumption into the Russian provinces of the Amour, Maritime, and Transbaikal.

Annexed to the Treaty are two schedules (Tariffs A. and B.) specifying respectively the maximum duties leviable on certain Russian products on importation into Italy, and on certain Italian products on importation into Russia. The following is a translation of Tariff A. (in which the existing duties have been inserted for the purpose of comparison) :—

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

RUSSIA—ITALY—*continued.*

TARIFF A.

DUTIES ON IMPORTATION INTO ITALY.

No. in Italian Tariff.	Articles.	Rate of Duty. Existing.	Rate of Duty. Fixed by the Present Treaty.
		Lire. cts. *Per* 100 *kilogs.*	Lire. cts. *Per* 100 *kilogs.*
8	Mineral, resin and tar oils—		
(*a*)	Heavy	8 00	8 00
	Note.—For the tariff classification of heavy mineral oils from the 1st January, 1911, the official colour type defined under No. 1*b* of the Note to the heading "Mineral oils, &c." in the Italian Tariff Repertory, will be fixed by agreement between the two Contracting Parties.		
(*b*)	Other	24 00	24 00*
	Note.—The duty on petroleum and other mineral oils suitable for lighting purposes, included under No. 8*b*, may be calculated, at the option of the importer, either on the weight or on the volume. In the latter case 125 litres at 15° C are to be taken as equivalent to 100 kilogs. net.		
280	Wheat	7 50	7 50†
281	Rye	4 50	4 50‡
282	Oats	4 00	4 00†
283	Barley	4 00	4 00‡
284	Other cereals—		
(*a*)	White maize	7 50	7 50‡
(*b*)	Not specially mentioned (including dried pulse)	1 15	1 15

As regards Tariff B (duties on importation into Russia) the following statement shows the *reductions* of the Russian Customs duties resulting from the conclusion of the present Treaty. These reduced duties will be applicable to the products of the United Kingdom when the Treaty comes into force :—

* In accordance with the Final Protocol to the Treaty, this duty is to be reduced to 16 lire per 100 kilogs. from the 1st January, 1911.

† Conventionalised by the Italian Treaty with *Roumania* also.

‡ Conventionalised by the Italian Treaty with *Servia* also.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

RUSSIA—ITALY—*continued.*

No. in Russian Tariff.	Articles.	Rate of Duty. In Customs Tariff of 1st March, 1906.	Rate of Duty. Fixed by the Treaty.
		Rbls. cop.	Rbls. cop.
Ex 6	Fruits and berries—		
	(2) Oranges, lemons, and bitter oranges, fresh	Poud / gross 1 57½	Poud / gross 1 00
Ex 180	Silk—		
	(4) Raw silk	Poud 10 00*	Poud 8 00
Ex 185	Silk, twisted and spun—		
	(1) Raw silk twisted (organzine, tram)—		
	(*a*) Unboiled, unbleached, undyed	" 67 00*	" 65 00
	(*b*) Boiled, bleached, or dyed ...	" 90 00*	" 88 00

* These rates of duty have been suspended at the request of the Italian Government, the rates under the former Russian Tariff being temporarily maintained in force, viz. :—

		Roubles.
Raw silk	Poud	3 00
Silk twisted or thrown—		
Undyed	"	60 00
Dyed	"	84 00

The Russian import duties on certain articles not covered by the Commercial Treaties which Russia has concluded with other countries are "conventionalised" by the present Treaty, and these duties will, consequently, not be raised so long as it remains in force. The following statement shows the articles in question and the stipulated duties thereon :—

No. in Russian Tariff.	Articles.	"General" Rates of Duty conventionalised by the present Treaty.
		Rbls. cop.
Ex 66	Stone, rough or rough dressed—	
	Ex 5.—All kinds of marble building alabaster, serpentine stone, with or without sawn or ground, but not with polished, surfaces—	
	(*a*) In blocks, lumps or slabs, of a thickness exceeding 3½ vershoks	Poud 0 18
	(*b*) In slabs of a thickness of 3½ vershoks or less...	" 0 60

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

RUSSIA—ITALY—*continued.*

No. in Russian Tariff.	Articles.	"General" Rates of Duty conventionalised by the present Treaty.	Rbls.	cop.
Ex 70	Stones of every kind (except semi-precious or precious), also plaster of Paris and alabaster, wrought—			
	1. In articles sculptured, carved or turned, polished or not—			
	(*a*) Weighing 3 pouds or less each	Poud	5	00
	(*b*) Weighing more than 3 pouds each ...	"	3	00
	2. Rough stone-mason's work, without chiselled or sculptured embellishments (with or without rounded surfaces), in marble, serpentine, alabaster, and other hard rock susceptible of taking a polish, *e.g.*, jasper, onyx, Labrador, granite, gneiss, porphyry, and basalt—			
	(*a*) With all or part of the surfaces polished	"	1	50
Ex 117	Vegetable oils and unrefined glycerine—			
	1. Fatty oils (olive, laurel, cottonseed, &c.), except those separately designated; "*olifa*" (boiled oil, siccative oil)	"	3	30†
Ex 124	Tanning materials—			
	Ex 1.—Sumac, even triturated or ground	Poud / gross	0	07½

† In accordance with the Final Protocol to the Treaty, this duty is to be reduced to 3 roubles 10 copecks per poud from the 1st January, 1911.

The Treaty (which will supersede the Treaty between Italy and Russia of the 16th/28th September, 1863) is to come into force one month after the exchange of ratifications, and is to remain in operation until the 18th/31st December, 1917, and, if not denounced one year before that date, until one year after denunciation by either Contracting Party.

FRENCH INDO-CHINA.

Import Duty on Machines for the Extraction of Gold.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a copy of a French Presidential Decree, dated 30th November last, reducing the duty on complete machines for the extraction of gold, put together or in pieces (not including the motors) imported, into Indo-China from foreign countries, to 8 francs per 100 kilogs net (3*s.* 3*d.* per cwt.)

PORTUGAL—MOZAMBIQUE.

Disinfection of Imported Second-Hand Clothing.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Colonial Office, of a copy of the regulations in force in Mozambique respecting the importation of second-hand clothing. These regulations are as follows:—

1. In conformity with the provisions of

Articles 67 and 68 of the Maritime Sanitary Regulations, second-hand clothing imported into the Province is regarded as suspected merchandise, and is therefore disinfected in accordance with Article 71 of the same regulations.

2. Disinfection is also carried out in the case of second-hand clothing moved from one place to another in the Province or to a place outside the Province, or consigned to any Portuguese Port or to the British South African Colonies.

3. The disinfection of consignments of second-hand clothing is dispensed with in cases where they have been disinfected at the port of shipment in accordance with Articles 51 and 164 of the Maritime Sanitary Regulations.

4. The sanitary treatment of the soiled clothing of passengers is similarly regulated by the provisions of the Regulations referred to.

ROUMANIA.

Customs Decisions.

The Board of Trade have received copies of recent Circulars issued by the Director-General of the Roumanian Customs, notifying the following decisions affecting the application of the Roumanian Tariff:—

Metals for re-casting.—Metals, *even if they have been cast*, in the form of lumps or blocks intended for re-casting, are dutiable under No. 583 of the Tariff at the rate of 50 bani per 100 kilogrammes (4*s.* 0¾*d.* per ton).

Certificates of origin for imported sardines.—Sardines in hermetically sealed tins must be accompanied by a certificate of origin in order that they may, if the produce of countries having a commercial convention with Roumania, be assessed at the conventional rate of duty. These certificates should be issued by the exporting Customs office in the country of origin, or a magistrate at the place of export, or the Roumanian Consul at that place, and should show the number and kind of packages, their numbers and marks, the nature and weight of the goods, the place of their manufacture and the name of the exporter. Only consignments accompanied by such certificate may benefit by the conventional tariff.

In the case of sardines arriving from a free port or other entrepôt in countries having conventions with Roumania, the conventional tariff may only be applied on presentation of the certificate referred to above, or another certificate from the local Customs or Chamber of Commerce, showing the place of manufacture.

TURKEY.

Prohibition of Export of Wheat from certain Ports.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of telegraphic information to the effect that the exportation of wheat from Alexandretta and Suidelih has been prohibited, fifteen days' grace being allowed in the case of contracts already entered into.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Labelling of Coffee from Dutch East Indies.

Questions having arisen as to the applicability of the term "Java Coffee" to coffee produced in the Netherlands Indies, a recent Food Inspection Decision (No. 82) of the United States Department of Agriculture suggests that a proper method of labelling coffee from the Dutch East Indies with a view to compliance with the provisions of the United States Food and Drugs Act would be to call all coffee coming from the island of Java "Java Coffee," that from the Padang districts "Padang Coffee," that from the Celebes "Celebes Coffee," from Sumatra "Sumatra Coffee," and all other sorts from the Netherlands Indies "Dutch East Indies Coffee."

CHILE.

Suspension of Import Duties on Cattle and Forthcoming Reduction of Duties on certain Textiles, &c.

With reference to the notice which appeared at p. 560 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 19th September last, on the subject of a Bill then before the Chilian Legislature, proposing to suspend the Customs duties on imported cattle and to authorise the reduction (by not more than 50 per cent.) of the duties on linen and woollen textiles, corrugated galvanised iron, boots and shoes, sugar, and portable houses, the Board of Trade are now in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of telegraphic information to the effect that the measure has been enacted by the Congress and promulgated. The reduction of duties referred to above is to be effected within a period of six months.

BRAZIL.

Regulations respecting Imported Food Products and Beverages.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a copy of a despatch from H.M. Minister at Rio de Janeiro, forwarding the following information respecting food and beverage preservatives, &c., the use of which is condemned by Brazilian Legislation:—

Wines, lard, and all other alimentary products condemned by the National Laboratory will be destroyed, and a fine of 500 milreis (about 31*l.* 5*s.*) will be imposed on the importers.

Wines and alimentary products are considered harmful to public health, and condemned, when they contain boric or salicylic acid, inferior alcohol, free mineral acids—sulphuric, sulphurous, nitric or hydrochloric—sulphites, alum, alkaline fluorates and fluorsilicates,

saccharine, salts of strontium, lead, zinc, tin, arsenic, antimony, sulphate of potash, to the extent of 2 grammes per litre of wine (except in the case of wines of an alcoholic strength exceeding 20 degrees, for which the limit is 4 grammes per litre); in beers: hop substitutes such as absinthe, bitter quassia, colchicum, picrotorina, colocynth, nux-vomica, picric acid, aloes, and essences prepared with fatty ethers, colouring matters derived from coal tar or with basis of lead, mercury, copper, arsenic, antimony, barium or any other substance which is or may in future be recognised as harmful to health.

In any case, the importation of artificial wines is prohibited, even when they do not contain harmful substances, and they will be destroyed if not re-exported within a period to be fixed by the Customs inspector,

Cognacs, whiskies, rums, gins, and other imported alcoholic beverages, natural or imitation, will be condemned as harmful to health when they contain more than three grammes (in round numbers) of poisonous impurities, aldehydes, fatty ethers, *furfurol*, superior alcohol, acetic acid, &c., per 1,000 grammes of alcohol at 100°, or 1·50 grammes of the same per 1,000 grammes of alcohol at 50°.

The importation of alcoholic beverages containing absinthe or any other harmful essences is prohibited by the Budget Law dated 30th December, 1905.

SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT.

NORWAY.

Bergen Railway.

H.M. Consul at Christiania (Mr. F. E. Drummond-Hay) reports that the Gulsvik-Voss section of the Bergen Railway was to be opened for traffic on the 16th December. The remaining section of the continuous line from Christiania to Bergen, viz., the Gulsvik-Roa line will scarcely be completed before 1910. Until then the traffic will be conducted *viâ* Drammen, causing a journey in a steamer on the Lake Kroderen in summer and a drive of 43 kilometres on the road east of the lake during the winter months.

NETHERLANDS.

New S.s. Line to South America.

H.M. Consul at Amsterdam (Mr. W. A. Churchill) reports that the Netherlands Government have agreed to advance 300,000 guilders (about 25,000*l.*) a year for five years, 200,000 guilders (about 16,666*l.*) a year for the following five years, and 100,000 guilders (about 8,333*l.*)

a year for a third period of five years to the National Stoomboot Maatschappij of Amsterdam, to enable them to establish a steamship line from Amsterdam and Rotterdam to Rio de Janeiro, Santos, and Buenos Ayres and back. The steamers are to be built as far as possible in Holland, are to have accommodation for first-class and steerage passengers, and must meet with the approval of the Minister of Commerce. The service is to consist of 20 complete voyages during the first year.

SPAIN.

Proposed Railway between Bilbao and Madrid.

The Acting British Consul at Bilbao (Mr. J. Innes) reports that at a public meeting held there on 30th November, it was unanimously decided to form an association to study the legal, technical and commercial aspects of the project for a direct railway between Bilbao and Madrid. It is understood that the intention is to study from a legal point of view any concessions already granted, their feasibility from a technical standpoint, such alterations or modifications as may be found advisable and the commercial prospects of the line. Should all these points be found satisfactory a Company is to be formed which would either purchase existing concessions and work alone, amalgamate if possible with the said concessionaires, or apply for a new concession.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Railway Freight Rates from New York to Chicago on Imported Goods.

The British Commercial Agent in the United States (Mr. E. Seymour Bell) reports that the Trunk Line Association of Railroads has issued a winter schedule of freight rates on imported goods sent from New York to Chicago, which became effective on the 2nd December. The few important articles for which the rates remain unchanged include bagging, burlap, gunny and barium chloride.

A list of the new rates, compared with the old, may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

In this connexion attention is called to pp. 651-2 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 31st December, 1903.

MINERALS, METALS AND MACHINERY.

BRITISH INDIA—BURMA.

Tourmaline Mines.

According to the "Indian Trade Journal" the Deputy Commissioner of the Ruby Mines District of Burma (Mr. E. C. S. George) has compiled a memorandum on the tourmaline mines of Maingnin, in which he states that the mines worked at present are situated round the small Palaung hamlet of Sanka, about a mile east of Maingnin.

Tourmaline is found in separate crystals in the interstices of hard granitic-looking rock. The chief methods employed by the native miners are:—(*a*) The ordinary *Twinlôn* method of sinking a vertical shaft about 4 or 5 feet square; and (*b*) the *Myaw* system of hydraulic washing away of the hill side till a vein is met with.

The cause of the fluctuations in the industry lies in the fact that the tourmaline crystals are only found intermittently in the vein. Adjoining *Twinlôns* give absolutely different results, and it is calculated that at least two-thirds of the shafts sunk yield nothing at all, while only an occasional one can be called rich. Of the 62 *Twinlôns* working at the time of Mr. George's visit, only three were yielding, and of these only one had traces of the best quality stone. The "veins" are fairly deep, none having ever been obtained at a depth of less than nine fathoms, while an ordinary depth is 40 or 50 cubits. It is said that the vein rarely if ever shows an outcrop, and it is a matter of pure speculation where to dig. There have been three finds, each of which caused a rush. The first was about seven years ago at Hpai Baing (Milaunggôn). The next took place a year or two later at Htaukat between Milaunggôn and Sanka, and then in 1905 a vein near Sanka village was struck, which caused the recent increase of population in Maingnin, but though the area within 100 yards of the original shaft is honey-combed with pits only three are yielding.

All tourmaline found is divided into three classes: (1) *Ahtet yay*, the best light pink coloured; (2) *Ahka* (waist or side), which is of a darker colour generally and has the lower portion of the crystal's length discoloured brown to black; and (3) *Sinzi* or *Amyi* (tail), which includes all fragmentary crystals of whatever colour or water which are imperfect or of a small size. The purchaser bids for the two better kinds only, and the *sinzi* is thrown in for nothing. The stones are sold by weight, *ahtet yay* fetching from Rs. 1,200 to Rs. 1,500 per viss, while *ahka* fetches about Rs. 500 for that quantity.

Viss = 3⅔ lb.

ROUMANIA.

Agricultural Machinery.

H.M. Consul at Bucharest (Mr. O. Wardrop) has forwarded an abstract of a Report by the Chief of the General Statistical Department, on the Agricultural Machinery and Implements used in Roumania, from which the following is taken:—The total capital invested in

agricultural machinery and implements is about 210,000,000 frs. (8,400,000*l.*), viz., portable engines (34,000,000 frs.), threshers (23,000,000 frs.), ploughs (25,000,000 frs.), and carts and wagons (87,000,000 frs.).

The number of steam ploughs, which are coming into more frequent use, is 55, with a power of 1,172 h.p. There are 4,539 portable engines of 47,861 h.p., driving 4,585 threshers, 1,258 maize-cleaning machines, besides hay cutters, hay presses, &c. There are in addition 357 portable engines used at mills. The number of ploughs of all kinds is 517,463, while there are 448,260 harrows, and 11,924 implements for sowing. Among the 18,451 harvesters in use, only 4,335 have binders attached, a very large number being owned by small cultivators. Of reapers there are 1,169, of potato pickers 39, of beetroot gatherers 62, of hay turners 168, and of mechanical rakes 1,323. Carts and wagons represent over 40 per cent. of the capital invested in machinery and implements.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Platinum Production for 1906.

According to a report by the United States Geological Survey, the production of platinum in the United States in 1906 exceeded, as regards both quantity and value, that for any previous year, amounting to 1,439 oz. valued at 45,189 dols. This was an increase over 1905 of more than four-fold in quantity and more than eight-fold in value. The high price of platinum has exercised a beneficial effect upon production, in that platiniferous gold dust has been received with more favour in the United States mints, so that the quantity of platinum recovered in gold refining has exceeded all previous records. A greatly increased production may be expected from California and Oregon. Reliable reports have been sent in to the Geological Survey, and even reliable assays made, showing the occurrence of platinum in certain copper-nickel ores in South Western Utah and in Eastern Nevada.

Investigation of Gas-producing Power of Peat.

According to the "Engineering and Mining Journal" (New York), the technological branch of the United States Geological Survey recently published the results of preliminary investigations upon the gas-producing powers of peat, and gave definite information as to the performance of this substance in gas producers. The first test described was somewhat inconclusive in that the five tons of material shipped to the testing plant was not sufficient to permit building up a fuel bed, and Illinois coal

was used for this purpose. Accordingly, it is uncertain just what part was played by the coal in the conversion of the peat into gas.

A more satisfactory test was made on peat from Orlando, Fla. This peat showed a shrinkage of 45 per cent. in bulk and 85 per cent. in weight in drying. The briquettes used were approximately 3 by 6 by 1·5 in. and enough were available to allow a 54-hours test after building up the bed and making the prelininary trial. The total consumption of peat during the run amounted to 29,250 lb. or about 585 lb. per hour. The producer gas obtained had a calorific value of 175 B.t.u. per cubic ft. It contained 18·5 per cent. hydrogen and was comparatively low in nitrogen, having only 45·5 per cent.

In using peat in gas producers more or less inconvenience arises from the fact that peat is very light. Firing must therefore be persistent, and in consequence, the amount of peat required to generate one horse-power is considerably greater than in the case of coal or of lignite.

In testing peat briquettes under boilers it was not possible to prolong the trials as much as was desired, but the results obtained were satisfactory as far as they went. No difficulty was found in keeping the boiler up to its rated capacity. The peat delivered a calorific value of 10,082 B.t.u. per lb. of dry peat as compared with 14,436 B.t.u. for West Virginia coal. The amount of peat burned per hour for each unit of electrical horse-power output was 6·98 lb. against 3·45 lb. for West Virginia coal. The principal difficulty in using peat for steam generation as indicated by these figures arises from its lightness which demands persistent, steady firing.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—PHILIPPINES.

Sulphur Deposits.

According to the "Engineering and Mining Journal" (New York), several small sulphur deposits of the solfatara type in the Philippine islands may possibly become of economic importance. The most important deposits so far reported are those known as San Antonia and Santa Rosalia, situated on the slopes of Mount Guiron on the island of Biliran.

In marketing sulphur from these deposits, says the "Journal," the price of Japanese sulphur at Manila, which is about 50 *pesos* per ton, would have to be met. With present transportation facilities it is calculated that the cost of delivering refined sulphur to Manila would be about 37 *pesos* per ton in the case of the San Antonio deposit, while the costs in the cases of the other solfataras is estimated to be above the price of Japanese sulphur.

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

BRAZIL.

Discovery of Miobite.

The October Bulletin of the French Chamber of Commerce at Rio de Janeiro reports the discovery, in the neighbourhood of Bello Horizonte, of two lumps of miobite, a valuable and very rare mineral. It is used for incandescent lamps, and in the manufacture of tantalum, a substitute for cutting-diamonds.

Petroleum.

The same bulletin states that an American syndicate has signed a contract with M. Malachias de Salles Guerra, Paulino Teixeira de Escobar and others for the working of important petroleum mines at Xarqueada, in the district of S. Pedro de Piracicaba.

YARNS AND TEXTILES.

BRITISH INDIA.

Cotton Spinning and Weaving Returns.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of the monthly return issued by the Indian Government, showing the quantity of cotton yarn spun, and of cotton woven goods produced, in each Province in British India, and in the Native States, during the six months, April to September, of each of the years 1905, 1906, and 1907.

The following is a summarised statement extracted from the above return, giving particulars for the six months, ended September, 1905, 1906, and 1907 :—

		Six months ended September.		
		1905.	1906.	1907.
BRITISH INDIA, BERAR, AND NATIVE STATES.				
Cotton yarn spun	Lbs.	350,000,854	337,696,796	320,841,920
Grey and bleached piece goods	"	68,619,440	68,520,672	76,653,960
	Yards	289,103,166	306,136,236	337,515,045
Coloured piece goods ...	Lbs.	Lbs. 14,604,360	13,376,576*	15,157,271*
	Yards		54,409,368	62,399,971
Grey and coloured goods (other than piece goods)	Lbs.		727,564	970,617
Hosiery	"	293,210	372,907	387,848
Miscellaneous goods ...	"	809,820	180,272	114,393

* The quantities of "coloured piece goods" and of "grey and coloured goods (other than piece goods)" produced in the *Native States*, not being separately stated, the total amounts are included in the figures given for "coloured piece goods."

AGRICULTURE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Corn Prices.

The prices of British corn per quarter of 8 bushels, as received from the inspectors and officers of Excise in the week ended the 21st December, 1907, were as follows:—

Wheat	34*s.*	9*d.*
Barley	27*s.*	1*d.*
Oats	18*s.*	3*d.*

For further particulars see p. 629.

BRITISH INDIA—BURMA.

Experiments in Tobacco Cultivation.

The "Pioneer Mail" (Allahabad) states that, according to official reports, recent experiments in tobacco cultivation in 21 districts in Burma and in the Shan States have not been very encouraging. In four districts successful results were obtained, namely, in Myitkyina, Toungoo, Tharrawaddy, and Minbu, but in four others—Hanthawaddy, Bhamo, Henzada, and the Western Sub-Division of the Southern Shan States—only partial successes are recorded, while in the remainder the experiments were a complete failure. The failures were due either to seeds not germinating or to destruction by floods or insects, and in a few cases to carelessness on the part of the cultivator. In the first case it is thought that the seed may have been at fault rather than the soil, and in future all importations of seed will be thoroughly tested before they are issued to the cultivators. The tobacco experimented with was Havana and Virginian, and the remarkable success achieved—especially with Havana seed—in some districts leads to the belief that failures in similar districts must have been due to carelessness or indifference, or, as already mentioned, bad seed. The official verdict is that the experiments were "not at all encouraging."

TRANSVAAL.

Samples of Tobacco, &c., on view.

Attention is called to the samples of Transvaal tobacco, cigars, cigarettes and snuff received by the Superintendent of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony Governments Trade Enquiry Office, which are on view at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C. These exhibits are specimens of the several descriptions being produced at the Government Tobacco Factory, Zoutpansberg, which are offered for local consumption only. Endeavours are however being made to effect improvements in the leaf, aroma, &c., of the existing qualities, with a view to the preparation of suitable articles for export.

Agriculture.

NORTHERN NIGERIA.

The following details relating to certain economic products in Northern Nigeria are extracted from the report on that Colony for 1906-7, recently issued by the Colonial Office:—

Tobacco. There are various varieties of tobacco grown for local consumption only, but there are extensive areas available for its cultivation. In the future a large export of this may be expected, but exhaustive experiments will have to be made of the various kinds grown locally as well as with imported seeds, so that a selection of the kind most suitable to the country may be settled.

Ground Nuts. Ground-nuts are found throughout the Protectorate and could be grown for export in immense quantities. They grow only in the various belts of forest along the streams, and the quantity produced is not sufficient to meet the requirements for food purposes.

Shea Butter. Shea butter trees are found in great quantities in many parts of the Protectorate, especially in Nupe, Zaria, and Nassarawa. Most of this product goes to waste for lack of transport or for lack of population to gather it.

Gum Arabic. Gum arabic is found in quantity in the Northern Hausa States and in Bornu, where large forests of the trees are found; very little of the gum is collected however. The gum freely exudes from the stem and branches during the dry season and coagulates at once, generally forming pear-shaped globules of a beautiful amber colour.

Rubber. Thousands of acres, at a nominal rental, could be rented from the Government for the purpose of growing rubber, with ground equal to any in the world, but no one applies or tries to take advantage of this privilege. 25,000 rubber trees (Funtumia elastica) were planted last year in the Lokoja Government Plantation; of these 6,000 died during the dry season. After the next rains the remaining 19,000 should be strong enough to resist the rigours of the dry season: all the gaps will be filled up and another 40 acres are to be planted out from the nurseries where the following rubber seedlings are grown and given to residents to experiment with, and also given free to natives who may apply:—Funtumia elastica, Castilloa elastica, Para rubber and Ceara rubber.

Farin Rama. This year (1907) a considerable amount of this fibre was to be planted for export, and as it grows like a weed, and the samples sent to the Niger Company at Ibi are reported upon as excellent, it is probable that the cultivation of this article will prove a source of wealth in the future.

Beeswax. Beeswax could be got in large quantities, especially from the pagan communities, where bee keeping is known. (*Colonial Reports, Annual, No.* 551).

MISCELLANEOUS.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Cotton Statistics.

The number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 19th December, 1907, was 154,985 (including 164 bales British West Indian and 73 bales British West African) and the number imported during the fifty-one weeks ended the 19th December was 4,581,316 (including 6,233 bales British West Indian and 10,718 bales British West African). As regards exports, the figures are, for the week ended the 19th December, 13,688 bales, and for the fifty-one weeks, 484,796 bales.

For further details see p. 629.

SPAIN.

New Factory for manufacture of Sardine Oil and Chemical Manures at Corunna.

H.M. Consul at Corunna (Mr. C. M. Trayner) reports the opening of a factory for the manufacture of sardine oil, and the making of chemical manures from fish refuse. The business, which is owned by a company composed of the trawler owners in Corunna, is under the management of a foreman who has had experience in this work at Hull. Glue is also to be a product of the new factory. The machinery which has been brought from Belgium, consists of a small engine and boilers.

SIAM.

Currency and Exchange.

H.M. Representative at Bangkok has forwarded a copy of the Report on the Budget of Siam for 1907–8, published by the Siamese Ministry of Finance, in which it is stated that during the year ended 31st March, 1907, the course of exchange varied considerably, ranging between 1*s.* 2·9*d.* on the 3rd April, 1906, for Bank demand drafts to 1*s.* 5·7*d.* on the 1st March, 1907, with an average for the year of about 1*s.* 3·9*d.*, or just over 15 ticals to the pound. The reason for this wide variation is to be sought in the fact that, owing to the unexpected rise in the price of bar silver, the Government was compelled to reconsider its policy as to the ultimate value at which the tical was to be fixed, under the scheme initiated in November, 1902, for placing the currency on a gold basis (see pp. 320–21 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of the 12th February, 1903, and p. 38 of the 1st January, 1903). The official value of the tical was raised by successive stages from something under 1*s.*, when the mint was closed to free coinage, to 1*s.* 3*d.*, or 16 ticals to the pound, in November, 1905, the latter rate becoming actually effective in the following January. At that time there was no intention of raising

Miscellaneous.

the rate further, but owing to the upward movement of silver the Government were compelled, in order to protect the tical, to advance their selling price, first to 1*s.* 4*d.* in August, 1906, and again to 1*s.* 6*d.* (or 13⅓ ticals to the pound) in November of the same year. With a tical at 1*s.* 3*d.* all profit on mintage ceases if bar silver is at a price of 30·83*d.* per ounce, while with a 1*s.* 4*d.* tical the no-profit price is about 32·89*d.* per ounce. Both these limits were exceeded by the actual silver quotations during the months May to November of last year, while even after the rate had been raised to 1*s.* 4*d.* the intrinsic value of the tical was at one time within 5 per cent. of its export price—allowance being duly made for freight and insurance charges. In these circumstances it was considered advisable to advance the rate at once to 1*s.* 6*d.*, which makes the tical safe until silver is quoted at about 38¾*d.* per ounce, rather than disturb the market by frequent small changes.

PARAGUAY.

Proposed Mixed Bank at Asuncion.

The Board of Trade have received from a reliable source information to the effect that negotiations have been proceeding for some time past between the Paraguayan Government and a group of Franco-Swiss financiers for the purpose of reaching an arrangement by which, with the help of foreign capital, the Paraguayan monetary system may be put upon a more stable basis than is at present the case. It is said that an understanding was arrived at during a recent visit which Señor Soler, the Paraguayan Minister of Finance, paid to Buenos Ayres. Full details of the scheme are not yet available, but it is understood that an arrangement has been made for the establishment of a mixed Bank at Asuncion, with a capital of 20,000,000 gold dollars (about 4,000,000*l.*), of which the Paraguayan Government is to subscribe one-third, with the power of issuing notes against a gold fund and the obligation of converting the circulating paper currency at a rate to be fixed later.

The arrangement requires the sanction of the Paraguayan Government.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Cotton Returns.

Return of the **Number** of **Bales** of **Cotton Imported** and **Exported** at the **Various Ports** of the **United Kingdom** during the **Week** and 51 Weeks ended 19th December, 1907 :—

—	Week ended 19th Dec., 1907.	51 Weeks ended 19th Dec., 1907.	Week ended 19th Dec., 1907.	51 Weeks ended 19th Dec., 1907.
	IMPORTS. (Bales.)		EXPORTS. (Bales.)	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
American	117,768	3,475,025	9,875	253,370
Brazilian	—	193,384	—	18,961
East Indian	771	202,894	167	79,444
Egyptian	28,360	549,820	3,610	120,608
Miscellaneous	8,086*	160,193†	36	12,413
Total	154,985	4,581,316	13,688	484,796

*Including 164 bales British West Indian and 73 bales British West African.
† " 6,233 " " " 10,718 " "

Corn Prices.

Statement showing the **Average Price** of **British Corn,** per quarter of 8 bushels, Imperial Measure,* as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise in the week ended 21st December, 1907, and corresponding weeks of the seven previous years pursuant to the Corn Returns Act, 1882.

—	Average Price.					
	Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Week ended 21st December, 1907	34	9	27	1	18	3
Corresponding week in—						
1900	26	4	25	10	17	2
1901	27	7	26	8	19	10
1902	24	10	24	1	16	8
1903	26	5	22	5	15	6
1904	30	3	24	7	16	1
1905	28	4	24	6	17	11
1906	26	3	24	3	17	3

* Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, provides that where returns of purchases of British Corn are made to the local inspector of Corn Returns in any other measure than the Imperial bushel or by weight or by a weighed measure that officer shall convert such returns into the Imperial bushel, and in the case of weight or weighed measure the conversion is to be made at the rate of sixty Imperial pounds for every bushel of wheat, fifty Imperial pounds for every bushel of barley, and thirty-nine Imperial pounds for every bushel of oats.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

TRADE RETURNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for the month of November, 1907, have been published. The accounts, which are issued on the 7th or 8th of each month, may be purchased at a cost, in the present instance, of 1*s.* 2*d.* per copy, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Fetter Lane, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; or Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; or Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

Attention is further called to the fact that the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions" for the year 1906, in two volumes and a Supplement, may be purchased at a cost of 6*s.* 8*d.* for the first volume, 3*s.* 4*d.* for the second volume, and 3*s.* 9*d.* for the Supplement, at any of the addresses enumerated above. This publication, which contains much more detailed and exhaustive information than can be given in the Monthly Accounts, gives Abstract Tables for the years 1902-1906, and detailed statements of imports and exports of each article (from and to each country) in the first volume, in the second volume details as to customs revenue, transhipments, and articles in bond, and particulars of the trade of the United Kingdom with each foreign country, and in the Supplement, Abstract and detailed tables showing countries of consignment of imports, and countries of ultimate destination of exports.

BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

The "Board of Trade Labour Gazette"* is published by the Board of Trade on the 16th of each month. The following are among the more important articles which appear in the December issue:—State of the Labour Market in November; Trade Unions in 1906; Lancashire Cotton Spinners' Dispute; Changes in Wages and Hours, 1906; Co-operation in Great Britain, 1906; and Conciliation Cases.

FOREIGN OFFICE REPORT.

The following is a *résumé* of some of the more interesting subjects dealt with in a Consular Report of the **Annual Series** issued since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal":—

ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3,948. Trade of Amsterdam for 1906.

Prosperity of textile and diamond industries.

Notes on tobacco, sugar, coffee, and tea trades.

Development of fisheries.

Comparative tables of imports and exports.

Reports of British Vice-Consuls at Ymuiden and Harlingen.

* It can be purchased through any newsagent, price 1*d.*

Government Publications.

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORT.

A report from the following British Colony has been issued by the Colonial Office since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal":—

No. 552. British Honduras.

OTHER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

Manufactured Goods Exported and Imported (United Kingdom and Germany), 1882-1906. 333. *Price* ½*d.*

This is a return showing the value of the exports, imports, and excess of exports of manufactured goods (according to the classification adopted in each of the two countries) in the cases of the United Kingdom and Germany, respectively, in each of the years since 1882, with averages for each quinquennial period; showing also the estimated value of the exports, imports, and excess of exports of manufactured goods in the case of Germany, in each of the last five years, based on the classification adopted in the United Kingdom.

Passengers to and from places out of Europe, November. [*Cd.* 3,335-X.] *Price* ½*d.*

This return shows the numbers and nationalities of the passengers that left, or arrived in, the United Kingdom for or from places out of Europe, and the net balance of such passengers outward or inward, during the month and eleven months ended 30th November, 1907, compared with the corresponding periods in 1906.

During the eleven months ended 30th November, 1907, the total number (provisional) of passengers that *left* the United Kingdom for places out of Europe was 612,957, as compared with 534,230 during the corresponding period of 1906, and the total number (provisional) that *arrived* in the United Kingdom from places out of Europe during the first eleven months of 1907 was 246,069, as compared with 208,321 during the corresponding period of 1906. The balance of the total movement shows that the number of passengers that *left* the United Kingdom for places out of Europe exceeded the number of passengers that *arrived* in the United Kingdom from places out of Europe by 366,888 during the first eleven months of 1907, as compared with a similar excess of 325,909 during the corresponding period of 1906.

Government Publications.

LIST OF FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

THE following Reports of H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Officers, which have been issued in the **Annual** and **Miscellaneous** Series since the 1st January, 1907, may be obtained from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Fetter Lane, E.C.

No.	Place.	Price
	EUROPE—	
	Austria-Hungary:	
3900	Austria-Hungary ...1906	1½*d.*
3947	" " Finances 1905–7	2½*d.*
3899	Fiume 1906	1*d.*
3859	Trieste 1906	2*d.*
663	*State encouragement to Industry in Hungary* ...	1½*d.*
	Belgium:	
3752	Antwerp — Shipping and Navigation 1906	2½*d.*
3918	Belgium ... 1906-7	4*d.*
656	*Precautions taken in Belgium to combat Ankylostomiasis*...	1½*d.*
664	*Coal Mining Industry in Belgium*	16½*d.*
	Denmark:	
3741	Denmark—Finances, 1903–4 and 1904–5	1*d.*
3746	Denmark—Trade and Shipping (supplementary) 1905	1*d.*
3862	Denmark 1906	2½*d.*
659	*Danish system of Taxation*	1*d.*
	France and Colonies:	
3935	Algeria 1906	2½*d.*
3812	Bordeaux 1906	3½*d.*
3783	Calais 1906	2½*d.*
3791	Cherbourg 1906	3*d.*
3886	Cochin-China 1906	1 .
3779	Corsica 1906	1*d.*
3780	Dunkirk 1906	2*d.*
3941	France, 1906, and 1st half of 1907	1½*d.*
3848	French Budget for 1907	2½*d.*
3763	French West Africa, 1905–6	2*d.*
3891	Havre 1906	3*d.*
3908	Lyons, St. Etienne, and Grenoble 1906	1½*d.*
3930	Madagascar 1906	½*d.*
3807	Marseilles 1906	2½*d.*
3904	Martinique 1906	1*d.*
3805	Nantes 1906	1*d.*
3759	New Caledonia ...1906	1*d.*
3866	Nice 1906	1*d.*
3840	Pondicherry 1906	1*d.*
3764	Réunion 1906	1*d.*
3773	Rouen 1906	1½*d.*
3877	St. Nazaire 1906	1*d.*
3870	St. Pierre and Miquelon 1906	1*d.*
3808	Society Islands ...1906	1*d.*

No.	Place.	Price
	EUROPE—(*continued*)—	
	German Empire:	
3845	Baden 1906	½*d.*
3936	Bavaria 1906 & part of 1907	2*d.*
3770	Chemnitz 1906	5½*d.*
3819	Dantzig 1906	2*d.*
3847	Frankfort 1906	6*d.*
3796	Germany 1906	6½*d.*
3889	Hamburg 1906	4½*d.*
3765	Leipzig... 1906	1*d.*
3810	Pomerania 1906	2½*d.*
3766	Wurtemburg 1906	1*d.*
661	*Vine culture and Wine trade of Germany* ...	1½*d.*
	Greece:	
3786	Corfu, Cephalonia, and Zante 1906	2*d.*
3806	Cyclades 1906	1*d.*
3821	Greece—Finances ...1906	3*d.*
3809	Morea, Ætolia and Acarnania 1906	1½*d.*
3785	Piræus 1906	2½*d.*
3818	Thessaly 1906	1½*d.*
	Italy:	
3926	Florence 1906	1½*d.*
3781	Genoa 1906	2*d.*
3795	Italy—Finances ...1906	3*d.*
3902	Lecce 1906	2½*d.*
3920	Leghorn 1906	1½*d.*
3799	Lombardy 1906	2*d.*
3768	Rome 1906	1½*d.*
3778	Sicily 1906	2½*d.*
3744	South Italy 1906	1½*d.*
3912	South Italy (Supplementary) 1906	2*d.*
	Netherlands and Colonies:	
3948	Amsterdam 1906	2½*d.*
3894	Curaçoa ... 1905–6	2*d.*
3887	Dutch Guiana... ...1906	1*d.*
3820	Java 1906	2*d.*
3833	Rotterdam 1906	1½*d.*
	Portugal and Colonies:	
3928	Angola 1906	2½*d.*
3754	Azores 1906	½*d.*
3790	Beira 1906	2*d.*
3743	Goa 1905	1*d.*
3909	Lourenço Marques ...1906	3*d.*
3811	Madeira 1906	1*d.*
3762	Oporto 1906	1*d.*

Government Publications.

No.	Place.	Price
	EUROPE - (*continued*)—	
	Roumania:	
3939	Constantza 1906	1*d.*
3749	Roumania (supplementary) 1905	1½*d.*
3787	Roumania 1906	3*d.*
	Russia:	
3775	Batoum... 1906	2*d.*
3835	Finland 1906	1½*d.*
3797	Moscow 1906	1¼*d.*
3834	Odessa... 1906	3*d.*
3745	Poland and Lithuania..1906	2⅔*d.*
3915	Riga 1906	4½*d.*
3792	Rostov-on-Don ...1906	2¼*d.*
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3742	Ecuador 1905	½*d.*
3946	" 1906	1½*d.*
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The Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade (No. 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.) is intended to be a centre at which information on all subjects of commercial interest shall be collected and focussed in a form convenient for reference, and at which, so far as the interests of British trade permit, replies shall be given to enquiries by traders on commercial matters. On application being made to it either personally or by letter, the Branch supplies, so far as is possible, information with regard to the following subjects, viz.: Commercial Statistics; Matters relating to Foreign and Colonial Tariffs and Customs Regulations; Lists of firms abroad engaged in particular lines of business in different localities; Foreign and Colonial Contracts open to Tender. Sources of Supply, Prices, &c., of Trade Products; Forms of Certificates of Origin; Regulations concerning Commercial Travellers, &c., &c. There is a Sample Room at the offices of the Branch, where, in addition to samples illustrative of reports of H.M. Consuls or of the Correspondents or Special Commissioners of the Board of Trade, specimens of special interest that may be received from India, the Colonies, &c., are exhibited from time to time. The Governments of India, Canada, and Queensland, also the Governments of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony, have established, in proximity to the Commercial Intelligence Branch, at 73, Basinghall Street, special offices for dealing with trade matters (see below).

The "Board of Trade Journal" is the principal medium through which intelligence collected by the Commercial Intelligence Branch, and intended for general information, is conveyed to the public. The "Journal" is issued weekly at the price of 3*d*. All applications respecting subscription, or the purchase of single copies, should be addressed in London to Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C.; in Edinburgh to Messrs. Oliver & Boyd; and in Dublin to Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street. Copies may also be obtained from Messrs. G. Street & Co., Ltd., 30, Cornhill, E.C.

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SPECIAL INDIAN AND COLONIAL TRADE ENQUIRY OFFICES—*continued*

Canada.—The Canadian Government have secured premises at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., where an office has been opened, under the designation of "Canadian Government City Trade Branch," for the convenience of the commercial community. In due course it is intended to equip and maintain a display room illustrating the products, resources and manufactures of the Dominion. In the meantime, a Canadian representative attends daily to deal with enquiries and applications regarding Canadian import and export trade, and to supply information about Canadian matters generally. Personal appointments can be arranged when desired.

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Transvaal and Orange River Colony.—A Trade Enquiry Office has been opened at 73, Basinghall Street, E.C. by the Governments of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony, but under the general direction of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade. The Superintendent in charge of the Office deals with, and supplies free, information in regard to the products and resources of the two Colonies, the opportunities they present to the settler, their railway facilities, the regulations of all kinds in force in them affecting trade, &c., &c.

Vol. LIX. No. 578.

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THE

Board of Trade Journal

Edited by the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade.

DECEMBER 26, 1907.

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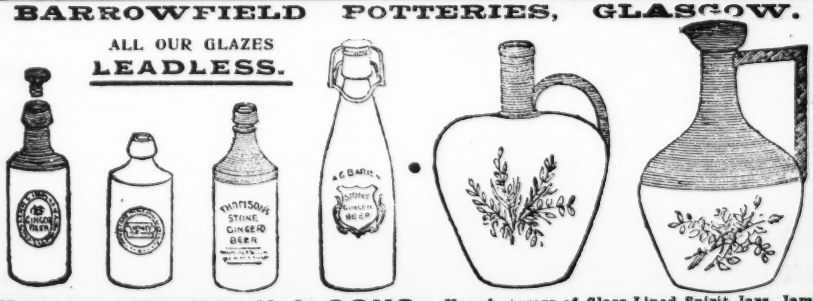

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To Contractors.

The Beckenham Urban District Council invite tenders for the Extension of their Destructor-House at the Electric Light Works, Church Fields-road.

Plans and sections may be seen, and specifications and forms of tender obtained, on application to Mr. John A. Angell, Surveyor, on and after December 12th, on the production of a receipt from the Collector (who attends his office daily from 9 to 10 a.m. only, except on Tuesdays, when his hours are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.) for a deposit of £2, which will be returned on the receipt of a bona-fide tender.

Tenders, duly sealed and endorsed "Tenders for Destructor-House," to reach the undersigned not later than 4 p.m. on Monday, January 6, 1908.

The Council do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order,
F. STEVENS,
Clerk of the Council.

CHRISTIANIA, January 10.—Steel Rails.—In connexion with the announcement issued by the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade on October 20, respecting a call for tenders for supply to the Norwegian State Railways of 4,552 tons of steel rails, the Commercial Intelligence Branch are now notified by His Majesty's Consul at Christiania that the time limit for the delivery of these tenders has been extended from November 13 to January 10, 1908.

CONTRACTS.

Berkshire County Council.
Road Materials.

The Berkshire County Council ask for tenders for the supply of Broken Road Materials for the twelve months ending March 31, 1909, delivered at railway stations and wharves in the county.

On the receipt of a stamped addressed foolscap envelope, forms of tender, list of stations and wharves, and full particulars will be forwarded by the County Surveyor.

Tenders, endorsed "Tender for Materials," to be sent to the undersigned by the 1st of January, 1908.

The contractor will be required, if his tender be accepted, to enter into a contract, to be prepared by the County Solicitor, such contract, if thought desirable by the Solicitor, to provide for two sureties. A specimen form of contract may be seen at the office of the Clerk of the County Council, 28, The Forbury, Reading.

J. FRED. HAWKINS,
County Surveyor.

Wing Rural District Council.
To Ironfounders.

Tenders are invited for the supply and delivery at Leighton Buzzard (L.N.W.R.) of about 190 tons of 4-in. and 3-in. Cast-Iron Pipes, Cast-Iron Well Cylinders, Specials, and other works.

Specification and bill of quantities may be obtained from the Engineers, Messrs. Sands & Walker, Milton Chambers, Nottingham, on payment of two guineas (by cheque), which will be returned on receipt of a bona-fide tender and the return, by the contractors, to the Engineers, of all documents entrusted to them within 14 days of the notice informing them a tender has been accepted.

The successful contractor will be required to enter into a bond, with approved sureties, for the due performance of his contract.

Sealed and endorsed tenders to be sent to the undersigned on or before Thursday, January 9, 1908.

CHAS. W. B. CALCOTT,
Clerk to the Council.

CONTRACTS.

Borough of Chepping Wycombe.
Tenders for Stoneware Pipes.

Tenders are invited for the supply of Stoneware Pipes for one year to December 31, 1908.

Forms of tender may be obtained from the undersigned, to whom tenders, endorsed "Pipes," must be delivered by noon on January 8, 1908.

T. J. RUSHBROOKE,
Borough Surveyor.
77, Easton-street, High Wycombe,
December 10, 1907.

VICTORIA, January 7th, 1908.—The Postmaster-General requires tenders for 11 sections of a common-battery switchboard and 3,000 subscribers' telephones and other apparatus, for the telephone exchange at Windsor.

RUSSIA.—The municipal authorities of Wilna are about to invite tenders for the supply of a tubular boiler, steam turbine and dynamo for the central electric lighting station.

TOBARRA.—Tenders have just been invited by the municipal authorities of Tobarra (province of Albacete) for the concession for the electric lighting of the town during a period of four years, and by the municipal authorities of Alboraya (Valencia province) for a term of three years.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC, June, 1908.—The municipal authorities of Buenos Ayres are reported to be about to invite tenders for the concession for the construction and working of an underground electric tramway in the city. Tenders will be received until June 1st, 1908, and particulars may be had from the Legation in Paris.

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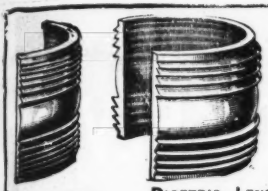

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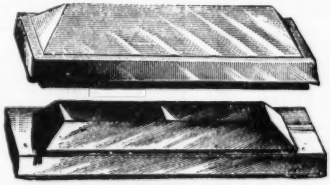

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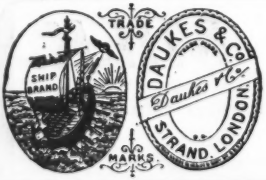

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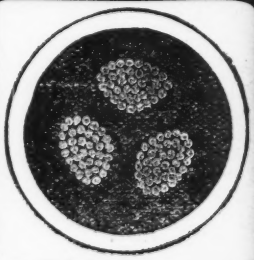

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